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Farm WEEKLY

RECENT activities

SIX GROWER GROUPS AWARDED EVERGREEN FARMING LEGACY FUND GRANTS

SIX Western Australian grower groups have received a collective \$137,300 in grants from the Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund through the GGA. This initiative supports projects focused on enhancing the sustainability and productivity of perennial pasture systems across Western Australia's diverse agricultural landscape. The successful recipients, Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, Western Beef, Facey Group, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Southern Dirt, and The Gillamii Centre, will each receive up to \$25,000 to further their efforts in developing, extending, and adopting innovative pasture management practices, new approaches to pasture resilience, productivity, and environmental stewardship across various regions. For further details visit gga.org.au



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

THREE WA Colleges of Agriculture, Denmark, Cunderdin, and Harvey, participated in the 2024 Climate-Smart Innovation Challenge, an initiative led by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub). The program engaged 70 students who developed innovative solutions to agricultural challenges posed by a hotter, drier and more variable climate. Winning projects addressed issues such as reversing desertification, improving soil health, and reducing methane emissions. Led by the GGA and funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, the SW WA Hub fosters agricultural innovation and collaboration to address the impacts of a changing climate. Through initiatives like this, the SW WA Hub equips future farming professionals to enhance resilience and sustainability in agriculture.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

LIFT OFF 2025: REGISTRATIONS OPENING SOON

SAVE the dates of 13 and 14 February for Lift Off 2025! This annual event brings the GGA network together – kickstart the year with connection and professional development, preparing GGA member groups for their year of work ahead. Lift Off 2025 will have a refreshed program with valuable opportunities to connect with peers, and promises engaging discussions, expert-led capacity building sessions and opportunities to identify potential partner groups for future collaboration within projects of mutual interest across the GGA network. By invite only and exclusive to GGA member groups, the program is currently under development with registrations, due to open early December at gga.org.au



GGA CHAIRS SUMMIT CONNECTS LEADERS

MORE than 30 leaders from 21 member groups came together to connect and strengthen critical relationships at the third annual Chairs Summit and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September. The Chairs Summit networking dinner set the tone with a great social opportunity and updates from each group on their current challenges and focus areas, guests also heard from governance expert Peter Fitzpatrick on the value of benchmarking. Prior to the AGM, Chairs and Vice Chairs were provided a detailed two-hour GGA update from senior staff and provided key metrics and insights on GGA's last 12 months activities. The current GGA board includes (elected) Member Directors Audrey Bird [Facey] and Marie Fowler [SEPWA] and (appointed) Independent Directors Peter Roberts [Chair], Graham Smith and Erin Gorter [Vice Chair].



> Leaders of GGA member grower groups connect over dinner at GGA's annual Chairs Summit held at the Aloft Hotel on 18 September.

DIGITAL DESIGN SERIES GROWS CREATIVE THINKERS

MORE than 80 members from the GGA network boosted their design skills through a recent Digital Design Series. The GGA delivered online tutorials over three weeks, which aimed to enhance the participant's graphic design skills via the online platform 'Canva'. This was ranked the tenth highest training priority by GGA members out of 48 topics in last year's annual member survey. Attendees learned practical tips and tools for creating optimised social media tiles, editing photos with ease and designing professional posters and reports. For more Capacity Building Program events visit gga.org.au

SW WA HUB DRIVES COLLABORATION FOR FUTURE DROUGHT FUND GRANTS

THE South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) was instrumental in fostering collaboration and innovation during two recent Future Drought Fund (FDF) grant rounds, which closed on 19 November. Reaching more than 70 organisations and individuals, the SW WA Hub received 29 expressions of interest and supported 12 high-quality project proposals aligned with WA's drought resilience priorities. SW WA Hub staff provided expert guidance throughout the grant process and connected applicants locally and nationally, resulting in more impactful submissions. This collaborative approach positions WA to maximise the impact of Federal investment in its agricultural regions. The new FDF programs, focusing on drought-resilient farming practices and resilient landscapes, aim to enhance agricultural sustainability across Australia.



> SWWA Hub Acting Director, Dr Jo Wisdom.

HAVE YOUR SAY AND WIN

GGA members are encouraged to complete GGA's 20-minute annual survey and be part of co-designing the 2025 Capacity Building Program to feature groups' highest training priorities. Those who complete the survey before Christmas this year will have a chance to win a \$1000 voucher towards any Capacity Building Program activities during 2025. Complete the survey via the QR code.



GGA TO DEVELOP REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

GGA will begin stakeholder consultations to guide the development of a new Regenerative Agriculture Program. Regenerative agriculture ranks among the network's top research priorities, with more than a third of GGA member groups listing it as an area of interest. This work falls under the broader theme of sustainability, recognised by the GGA Board as one of three strategic focus areas, alongside climate resilience and water. GGA members and those in the wider industry interested in being involved are invited to lodge an initial Expression of Interest, using the QR code.



R&D PROJECT NEWS

THE WA GRAIN LEGUMES GROWER SURVEY REPORT OUT NOW

GGA, together with 13 grower groups, conducted a survey in 2023, which was completed by 105 growers across Western Australia WA grain legumes. Despite some reported challenges, many growers continue to incorporate grain legumes in their rotations for the long-term benefits, including improved soil health and grass weed control. Looking forward, growers are calling for increased investment in overcoming poor commodity prices, improved market access, ongoing cultivar development, and better quantification of the nitrogen contributions from legumes. Read the full survey report at the 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA' project via the GGA website gga.org.au



> A new podcast series linked to the GRDC investment project 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap in Grain Legumes' shares knowledge and insights on grain legumes in farming systems from eight 'Legume Leaders' with decades of experience in legumes production across WA including Scott Wandel (pictured).



PRE-SEEDING FROST PLANNING WORKSHOPS EOI NOW OPEN

AS part of a GRDC investment into Frost Management Extension led by GGA, both 'post frost event' pop-up walks and 'pre-seeding' frost planning workshops are available to run in regional locations on demand. Farmers attending these workshops can develop a personal frost management plan with guidance from experts in the room and access the latest in frost management strategies and research. Groups and individuals can lodge an Expression of Interest to host or attend a free local event by visiting the project page 'NGN- Frost Management Workshops and Field Days' at gga.org.au

MAKING DAMS WORK AGAIN

SECOND-HAND tarps are boosting water security in Western Australia's South Coast by increasing catchment run-off. As part of the GGA WaterSmart Dams project, the University of Western Australia Centre for Water and Spatial Science team has been measuring water capture at a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation community dam in Jacup. These tarps capture water from just 0.8mm of rainfall, compared to the usual 8-12mm for a well maintained roaded catchment. Between May 2023 and July 2024, 140mm (0.75ML) of extra water was captured. At a Fitzgerald Biosphere Group field day, local contractors shared how for \$13K, their team can install 20 tarps, which could last up to five years. The WaterSmart Dams team continues to assess the benefits and costs of on-farm water capture and evaporation suppressive solutions. For more information visit gga.org.au



CRACKING THE CARBON CODE

GGA is leading the delivery of the National Industry-led Carbon Farming Outreach program, co-ordinating and collaborating with 40 grower group partners, whose collective footprint stretches across every State, and the Northern Territory. Through this program, participants from across Australia will soon have the opportunity of developing their understanding of how to reduce the carbon intensity of their operations or adopt carbon storing practices. Through this collaboration GGA has assembled a national network of more than 140 trainers. This network of trainer and partners gives the program scope to deliver locally relevant information to farmers looking to understand more about emissions and carbon management. Find out more at gga.org.au

NEW PROJECT DRIVES CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRALIA

GGA has announced its new four-year nation-wide project Ripple Effect, designed to improve water security, biodiversity and climate resilience for Australian farmers. Funded by a \$5 million Grant from the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust Climate-Smart Agriculture program, the Ripple Effect project will leverage cutting-edge water management practices to boost agricultural productivity, sustainability, and carbon reduction efforts. The Ripple Effect project represents a collaborative effort led by the GGA, in partnership with key academic and research institutions including the University of Western Australia, University of Adelaide, Australian National University, Blue Carbon Lab at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and University of Southern Queensland. In addition, all eight national Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs will support the project, to engage with grower group networks representing producers to drive the adoption of innovations in water security and quality, biodiversity and emissions reduction. For more information see gga.org.au



WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at gga.org.au

WELCOME to four new GGA member groups joining the network in August 2024. Three new groups were accepted by the GGA board as Associate [non-voting] members, including the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group, Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management and Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc. The Southern Grazer Network also qualified as an Associate 'grower group' [non-voting] member, with about 300 members. These four groups add a wealth of knowledge to the network, including sustainable agricultural practices, natural resource management and beef productivity.

GGA NETWORK

- GROWER GROUP MEMBERS [voting]**
 Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
 ASHEEP & BEEF
 Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)
 Compass Agricultural Alliance
 Corrigin Farm Improvement Group
 Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI)
 Facey Group
 Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)
 Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
 Future Food Producers Group
 Gascoyne Catchments Group
 Gillamii Centre
 Great Southern Wine Producers Association
 Hills Orchard Improvement Group
 Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
 LIEBE Group
 Lower South West Grower Group
 Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
 Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)
 Moora Miling Pasture Improvement Group
 Morawa Farm Improvement Group
 Mortlock Ag Focus Group
 Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative
 Noongar Land Enterprise Group
 North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
 Northern Agri Group
 Nyabing Farm Improvement Group
 O'Connor Research Group
 Oil Mallee Association of Australia
 Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
 Regen WA
 Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
 South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
 Southern Dirt Incorporated
 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
 Stirlings to Coast Farmers
 Sweeter Banana Co-operative
 Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)
 Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
 Turf Growers Association of Western Australia
 WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
 WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)
 WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
 West Midlands Group
 Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
 Western Beef Assoc Inc
 Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
 Women in Farming Inc
 Yuna Farm Improvement Group

ASSOCIATE GROWER GROUP MEMBERS [non-voting]

- Broomehill Cropping Group
 Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee
 Dumblebying Land Conservation District Committee
 Holt Rock Group
 Lakes Grower Group
 Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)
 Living Farm Grower Group
 Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
 Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)
 Owingup Kent Grower Group
 Wilson Inlet Grower Group (WIGG)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS [non-voting]

- AgZero 2030
 Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)
 Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
 Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
 Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group
 Gascoyne Food Council Inc
 Gate 2 Plate Inc.
 Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
 Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
 Julianne Hill
 Leschenault Biosecurity Group
 Northern Biosecurity Group
 Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc
 Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
 Rural Edge
 South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc
 South West NRM
 Southern Biosecurity Group
 Southern Forests Community Landcare
 Southern Forests Food Council
 Torbay Catchment Group
 TrialCo Pty Ltd
 vegetablesWA
 WA Citrus
 WA Future Food Network
 Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone
 Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)
 Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)
 Wines of WA

To connect with your local grower group visit gga.org.au

